

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

Claim 1 (original): An information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of peripheral devices, said apparatus comprising:

a storage device, for storing predetermined objects for ~~predetermined~~ the peripheral devices based on directory information;

detection means, for detecting a specific object in ~~[[said]]~~ the directory information read from said storage device;

display means, for displaying, in accordance with a tree list, ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected by said detection means; and

control means, for, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object corresponding to one of the peripheral devices locally connected to said information processing apparatus to ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral device not locally connected to said information processing apparatus, permitting said display means to display, in accordance with ~~[[said]]~~ the tree list, ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected by said detection means.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means omits an intermediate directory path leading to ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, before ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected by said detection means is displayed on said display means in accordance with ~~[[said]]~~ the tree list, said control means omits a directory path ~~[[along]]~~ in which ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object is not present.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means performs ~~[[the]]~~ sorting for an object display, so that ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object is displayed at a higher location on a list.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected by said detection means is to be displayed on said display means in accordance with ~~[[said]]~~ the tree list, and when ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object ~~can not~~ cannot be referred to directly due to access right limitations, said control means displays a higher object for which there are no access right problems.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object is an object for a printer device.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object is an object for a compound device including a printer function.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An information processing method, for an information processing apparatus, capable of communicating with a plurality of peripheral devices, including a storage device for storing predetermined objects for ~~predetermined the~~ peripheral devices devices based on directory information, said method comprising:

a detection step of detecting a specific object in ~~[[said]]~~ the directory information read from ~~[[said]]~~ the storage device;

a display step of, in accordance with a tree list, displaying on display means ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected ~~[[at]]~~ in said detection step; and

a control step of, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object corresponding to one of the peripheral devices locally connected to the information processing apparatus to ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral device not locally connected to the information processing apparatus, permitting ~~[[said]]~~ the display means to display, in accordance with ~~[[said]]~~ the tree list, ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected ~~[[at]]~~ in said detection step.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein an intermediate directory path leading to ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object is omitted ~~[[at]]~~ in said control step.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein, before ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected ~~[[at]]~~ in said detection step is displayed on ~~[[said]]~~ the display means in accordance with ~~[[said]]~~ the tree

list, [[at]] in said control step, a directory path [[along]] in which [[said]] the specific object is not present is omitted.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein [[the]] sorting for an object display is performed [[at]] in said control step, so that [[said]] the specific object is displayed at a higher location on a list.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein, when [[said]] the specific object detected [[at]] in said detection step is to be displayed on [[said]] the display means in accordance with [[said]] the tree list, and when [[said]] the specific object ~~can not~~ cannot be referred to directly due to access right limitations, [[at]] in said control step a higher object for which there are no access right problems is displayed.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein [[said]] the specific object is an object for a printer device.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein [[said]] the specific object is an object for a compound device including a printer function.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A control program, which is executed by an information processing apparatus, capable of communicating with a plurality of peripheral devices, including a storage device for storing predetermined objects for ~~predetermined the~~ peripheral devices based on directory information, ~~and which permits said information processing apparatus to perform~~ said program comprising:

code for a detection step of detecting a specific object in ~~[[said]]~~ the directory information read from ~~[[said]]~~ the storage device;

code for a display step of, in accordance with a tree list, displaying on display means ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected ~~[[at]]~~ by said code for a detection step; and

code for a control step of, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object to ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object, permitting ~~[[said]]~~ the display means to display, in accordance with ~~[[said]]~~ the tree list, ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected ~~[[at]]~~ by said code for a detection step.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A control program according to claim 15, which permits ~~[[said]]~~ the information processing apparatus to ~~perform~~ execute said code for a control step, so that an intermediate directory path leading to ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object is omitted.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A control program according to claim 15, which permits ~~[[said]]~~ the information processing apparatus to ~~perform~~ execute said code for a control step, so that, before ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected ~~[[at]]~~ by said code for

a detection step is displayed on ~~[[said]]~~ the display means in accordance with ~~[[said]]~~ the tree list, a directory path ~~[[along]]~~ in which ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object is not present is omitted.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A control program according to claim 15, which permits ~~[[said]]~~ the information processing apparatus to ~~perform~~ execute said code for a control step, so that ~~[[the]]~~ sorting for an object display is performed, and ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object is displayed at a higher location on a list.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A control program according to claim 15, which permits ~~[[said]]~~ the information processing apparatus to ~~perform~~ execute said code for a control step, so that, when ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected ~~[[at]]~~ by said code for a detection step is to be displayed on ~~[[said]]~~ the display means in accordance with ~~[[said]]~~ the tree list, and when ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object ~~can-not~~ cannot be referred to directly due to access right limitations, a higher object for which there are no access right problems is displayed.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A control program according to claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object is an object for a printer device.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A control program according to claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object is an object for a compound device including a printer function.

Claim 22 (original): A computer-readable storage medium for storing the control program according to claim 15.

Claim 23 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of peripheral devices, said apparatus comprising:

a storage device, for storing predetermined objects for ~~predetermined~~ the peripheral devices based on directory information;

detection means, for detecting a specific object in ~~[[said]]~~ the directory information read from said storage device;

display means, for displaying, in accordance with a tree list, ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected by said detection means; and

control means, for, when ~~[[said]]~~ the object detected by said detection means is to be displayed on said display means in accordance with a tree list, omitting an intermediate directory path to ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object,

wherein said control means permits, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object corresponding to one of the peripheral devices locally connected to said information processing apparatus to the specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral device not locally connected to said information processing apparatus, said display means to display, in accordance with the tree list, the specific object detected by said detection means.

Claim 24 (currently amended): An information processing method, for an information processing apparatus, capable of communication with a plurality of peripheral devices, including a storage device, for storing predetermined objects for ~~predetermined~~ the peripheral devices based on directory information, said method comprising:

a detection step of detecting a specific object in ~~[[said]]~~ the directory information read from ~~[[said]]~~ the storage device;

a display step of, in accordance with a tree list, displaying on display means ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object detected ~~[[at]]~~ in said detection step; and

a control step of, when ~~[[said]]~~ the object detected ~~[[at]]~~ in said detection step is to be displayed on ~~[[said]]~~ the display means in accordance with a tree list, omitting an intermediate directory path to ~~[[said]]~~ the specific object,

wherein said control step includes permitting, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object corresponding to one of the peripheral devices locally connected to the information processing apparatus to the specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral device not locally connected to the information processing apparatus, said display step displays, in accordance with the tree list, the specific object detected in said detection step.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A control program, which is executed by an information processing apparatus, capable of communicating with a plurality of peripheral devices, including a storage device, for storing predetermined objects for ~~predetermined~~ the peripheral devices based on directory information, ~~and which permits said information processing apparatus to perform~~ said program comprising:

code for a detection step of detecting a specific object in [[said]] the
directory information read from [[said]] the storage device;

code for a display step of, in accordance with a tree list, displaying
on display means [[said]] the specific object detected [[at]] said code for a detection step;
and

code for a control step of, when [[said]] the object detected [[at]] by
code for a said detection step is to be displayed on [[said]] the display means in accordance
with a tree list, omitting an intermediate directory path to [[said]] the specific object,

wherein said code for a control step includes permitting, based on
the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object corresponding to one
of the peripheral devices locally connected to the information processing apparatus to the
specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral device not locally connected to
the information processing apparatus, said code for a display step displays, in accordance
with the tree list, the specific object detected by said code for a detection step.

Claim 26 (original): A computer-readable storage medium for storing the
control program according to claim 25.

Claim 27 (new): An information processing apparatus located in one of a
plurality of network segments separated by computers, said apparatus comprising:

display means for displaying a display screen such that a plurality of
peripheral devices are positioned at respective determined directory layers; and

control means for controlling said display means to display the display screen such that a first peripheral device connected to one of the plurality of network segments and a second peripheral device connected to another of the plurality of network segments are positioned at respective predetermined directory layers in accordance with the number of computers positioned between said information processing apparatus and the one and the other network segments.

Claim 28 (new): An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein if the first peripheral device is connected directly to said information processing apparatus and if the second peripheral device is connected via at least one server apparatus to said information processing apparatus, said control means controls said display means to display the display screen such that the first peripheral device is positioned at a directory layer higher than that of the second peripheral device.

Claim 29 (new): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus located in one of a plurality of network segments separated by computers, said method comprising:

a display step of displaying a display screen such that a plurality of peripheral devices are positioned at respective determined directory layers; and

a control step of controlling the display means to display the display screen such that a first peripheral device connected to one of the plurality of network segments and a second peripheral device connected to another of the plurality of network segments are positioned at respective predetermined directory layers in accordance with the

number of computers positioned between the information processing apparatus and the one and the other network segments.

Claim 30 (new): A method according to claim 29, wherein if the first peripheral device is connected directly to the information processing apparatus and if the second peripheral device is connected via at least one server apparatus to the information processing apparatus, said control step controls the display means to display the display screen such that the first peripheral device is positioned at a directory layer higher than that of the second peripheral device.

Claim 31 (new): A control program, which is executed by an information processing apparatus located in one of a plurality of network segments separated by computers, said program comprising:

code for a display step of displaying a display screen such that a plurality of peripheral devices are positioned at respective determined directory layers; and

code for a control step of controlling the display means to display the display screen such that a first peripheral device connected to one of the plurality of network segments and a second peripheral device connected to another of the plurality of network segments are positioned at respective predetermined directory layers in accordance with the number of computers positioned between the information processing apparatus and the one and the other network segments.

Claim 32 (new): A program according to Claim 31, wherein if the first peripheral device is connected directly to the information processing apparatus and if the second peripheral device is connected via at least one server apparatus to the information processing apparatus, said code for a control step controls the display means to display the display screen such that the first peripheral device is positioned at a directory layer higher than that of the second peripheral device.

Claim 33 (new): A computer-readable storage medium for storing the control program according to claim 31.

Claim 34 (new): A computer-readable storage medium for storing the control program according to claim 32.